

# NEWS RELEASE

**Sawtooth National Forest  
2647 Kimberly Road East  
Twin Falls, ID 83301**



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Citizens Sought for Resource Advisory Committee**

**Twin Falls, Idaho . . .** The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is seeking applicants to serve on a Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) for the Sawtooth National Forest. RACs were re-authorized by the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act, Public Law 110-343.

“RACs will consist of 15 local citizens and six alternates representing a wide array of interests,” said Julie Thomas, Public Affairs Officer for the Sawtooth National Forest. “The committee will review proposed forest management projects and make recommendations to the Forest Service on their implementation.”

Thomas also stated that RACs will coordinate with land management agency officials, which provides an opportunity to participate in the project development process. Committee members are sought who are committed to working collaboratively with other interests for the long-term benefit of public lands. **The application period ends June 15, 2014.**

“The RACs enable local county residents to have a meaningful say in how federal lands are managed,” said Sawtooth National Forest Supervisor Rebecca Nourse. “The boundary of the RAC for south central Idaho covers the Sawtooth National Forest and includes Blaine, Camas and Cassia Counties.” In the state of Idaho six RAC areas have been approved. The geographic boundaries of the RACs are aligned closely with county boundaries and with National Forest boundaries.

Council members serve a four-year term without monetary compensation, but may be reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses. Meetings are generally held quarterly, and are located within the geographic area the RAC serves. Members must reside within the State of Idaho to serve on the RAC, and to the extent practicable within the RAC boundary.

The Secretary of Agriculture will appoint RAC members. The composition of each RAC is to be balanced according to the following three interest categories identified in the legislation:

**Category One:** (five regular members and two alternates)

- Organized labor
- Developed outdoor recreation, off-highway vehicle, commercial recreation

- Energy and mineral development
- Commercial timber industry
- Federal grazing permit holders or land use permit holders within RAC area

**Category Two:** (five regular members and two alternates)

- Nationally recognized environmental organizations
- Regionally or locally recognized environmental organizations
- Dispersed recreation activities
- Archaeological and historical interests
- Nationally or regionally recognized wild horse or burro groups

**Category Three:** (five regular members and two alternates)

- State-elected office holders
- County or local elected office holders
- American Indian tribal representatives from tribes within or adjacent to RAC areas
- School officials or teachers
- Citizens representing the affected public at large

**The South Central Idaho RAC is currently looking for individuals who can represent: Energy and mineral development, or Commercial or Recreational Fishing, Regionally or Locally Recognized Environmental Organizations, Archaeology and History, Nationally or Regionally Recognized Wild Horse and Burro interest, Wildlife or Hunting Organizations, or Watershed Associations, American Indian Tribes within or adjacent to the area for which the committee is organized.**

To obtain an application packet or additional information, please contact Julie Thomas at the US Forest Service (208) 737-3262. Applications are also available at National Forest offices. In completing your application, please indicate the interest group you wish to represent next to your signature.

Applicants will be evaluated based on their education, training, and experience working with the interest area they choose to represent, and their knowledge of the geographic area covered by the RAC. Applicants must also have demonstrated a commitment to collaborative resource decision-making.

Completed applications should be mailed to Julie Thomas, Sawtooth National Forest, 2647 Kimberly Road East, Twin Falls, ID 83301.